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The Honorable Bart Gordon  
Chairman  
House Science and Technology Committee  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Hall  
Ranking Member  
House Science and Technology Committee  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific organization, I am writing to express our support for the principles laid out in the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act – vital legislation that recognizes the importance of innovation and research in sustaining a strong American economy. AAAS believes that, in order to keep the United States at the forefront of technological development and economic growth, it is necessary to:

- Enhance budgets for fundamental and multidisciplinary research across multiple agencies
- Invest in a better-prepared, better-educated domestic workforce
- Improve accessibility and receptivity to minority students, scientists, and engineers
- Create and expand incentives for new partnerships and collaborations to advance innovation

The original America COMPETES Act was a hallmark of collaboration between the branches of government and across party lines, and we encourage you to work in bipartisan fashion to enact it again this session. We recognize that Congress faces many budgetary priorities and other fiscal challenges, but we strongly believe that the investments made over the next five years in research and education will pay large dividends in our Nation's future.

Many thanks, again, for your consideration of these important issues. AAAS, representing the interests of 10 million scientists and engineers worldwide, stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner